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Carter may be back, but some of his team won't

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Key White House aides expect a considerable turnover in top-level administration and policy personnel if President Carter is re-elected.

These White House sources are saying that several high officeholders will be deciding on their own that four years in government is enough and that they want to go back to private life.

Already Attorney General Griffin Bell is reported leaving his post later this year in accordance with his oft-expressed intention not to stay long in Washington.

Growing dissatisfaction

However, there are others playing major roles in the Carter administration who seem likely to leave in 1981, if not earlier, because of growing dissatisfaction among some White House aides with their performances. This dissatisfaction may or may not be shared by the President, but he has to be hearing it:

Item. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger is perceived by some very influential members of the Carter team as having lost much of his usefulness — not because of any substantive failures but because of what they term his "arrogance" in dealing with others, particularly Congress.

Item. Chief inflation-fighter Alfred Kahn also is laboring under a negative White House perception because of what is felt to be lack of

discretion in his public utterances. His earlier mention of a possible depression and his recent comment that the administration's wage guidelines has been "bent" in the Teamsters Union contract settlement are cited as examples of such indiscretions. They failed to follow the President's position that no depression was coming and that the Teamsters settlement did come within his guidelines.

Turner 'in trouble' but...

Another key presidential figure, Central Intelligence Agency director Stansfield Turner, also has picked up some critics in the White House. Some aides give Admiral Turner credit for making progress in restoring both efficiency and credibility to the CIA, although they feel he could be doing so with more grace.

But, despite persistent reports that the admiral is "in trouble" and will be leaving his post, there seems very little likelihood of this. The President had to persuade his fellow US Naval Academy graduate to take on this extremely difficult assignment.

Thus, Mr. Carter is likely to stick with him now that Mr. Turner is involved in just the kind of heat and controversy that both of them knew was certain for anyone in that post at this time.

"We couldn't possibly replace our CIA director," once White House aide said. "It would just stir up more difficulties — more controversy."

Jordan talks of leaving

As far as the White House staff itself is concerned, Hamilton Jordan continues to talk as

though he might not stay beyond a first term. He says he came to Washington just for a while and then wants to do something else. But Jordan cohorts are not taking his talk of leaving too seriously.

The other members of the inner team — Vice-President Walter F. Mondale, Jody Powell, Stuart Eizenstat, Gerald R. Rife, and Frank Moore — seem certain to be at Mr. Carter's side for the duration of his presidency.

The President's top economic advisers, however, might well be replaced — or want to leave — if problems in this sector continue to grow.

Secretary of the Treasury W. Michael Blumenthal and chief of the Council of Economic Advisers Charles L. Schultze are seen as being less than likely returnees if their advice turns out to be sour.

Adams doubts canceled

Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams is another who was said to be "in trouble" with the President several months ago. However, this seems to have been a false report. In any event, Mr. Adams is riding high with the President at the moment.

Finally, there is an oft-heard view within the administration that Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Joseph A. Califano Jr. will not return to his post for a second term.

Mr. Califano's ideological bent is known to be more liberal than that of the President. And while he and Mr. Carter seem to have resolved their differences, particularly on welfare reform and the national health program, it is believed that he will not want to carry on this uneasy relationship for another four years.